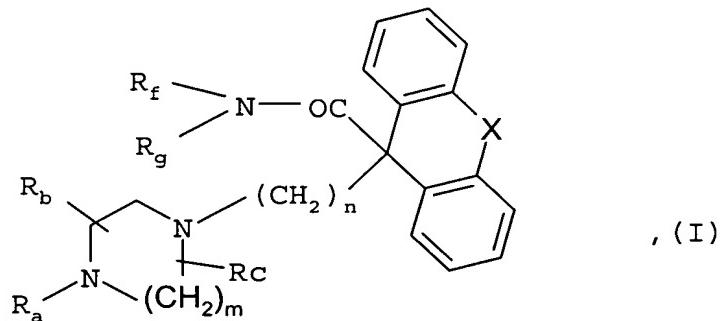


LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

n denotes the number 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5,

m denotes the number 2,

X denotes a carbon-carbon bond,

R_a denotes a phenyl group or a monoacylic heteroaryl group chosen from pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, thiophenyl, oxazolyl and thiazolyl each substituted by the groups R₁ and R₂,
wherein

R₁ denotes a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, a C₁₋₃-alkyl group wherein the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl are optionally wholly or partly replaced by fluorine atoms, a C₁₋₄-alkoxy group, a phenoxy, phenyl-C₁₋₃-alkoxy, nitro or amino, wherein the

abovementioned phenyl of the phenoxy is optionally substituted by chlorine or methoxy, and

R₂ denotes a hydrogen, chlorine or C₁₋₄-alkoxy,

or R_a denotes a monocyclic heteroaryl chosen from pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, thiophenyl, oxazolyl and thiazolyl or phenyl group which is substituted in each case by a phenyl group,

R_b and R_c independently of one another denote a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃-alkyl group and

R_f denotes $\text{--C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$ wherein the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl are optionally wholly or partly replaced by fluorine atoms, phenyl-C₁₋₃-alkyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by fluorine or C₁₋₃-alkoxy,

R_g is hydrogen;

or

the enantiomeres, diastereomers or the salts thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein

n denotes the number 3, 4 or 5.

Claim 13 (Previously amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein

R_b and R_c independently of one another denote a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein

n denotes the number 4,
m denotes the number 2.

Claim 15 (Previously amended): A compound chosen from

9-[4-(4-biphenyl-3-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-butyl]-9H-fluorene-9-carboxylic acid-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-amide and

9-[4-(4-biphenyl-4-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-butyl]-9H-fluorene-9-carboxylic acid-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-amide

or the enantiomers, diastereomers or the salts thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously added): A physiologically acceptable salt of the compound according to claim 11.

Claim 17 (Previously added): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 11 with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert carriers and/or diluents.

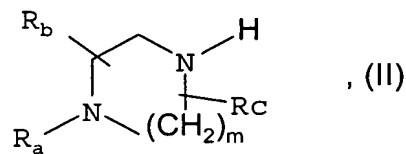
Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method of treating a disease selected from hyperlipidaemias, atherosclerosis ~~and the clinical sequela thereof~~, diabetes mellitus, adiposity and pancreatitis, said method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 11.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 19 wherein the compound ~~according to claim 11~~ is combined with another lipid-lowering agent.

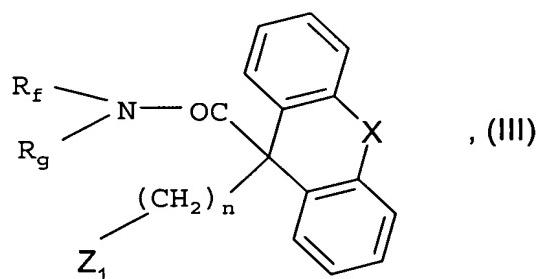
Claim 21(Currently amended): Process for preparing a compound of the formula (I) according to claim 11, comprising

a) reacting under suitable conditions a compound of formula



wherein

R_a , R_b and R_c are defined as in claim 11, with a compound of formula

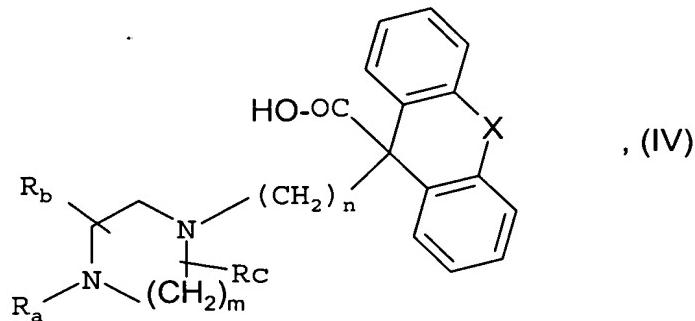


wherein

n , R_f , R_g and the tricyclic system are defined as in claim 11 and

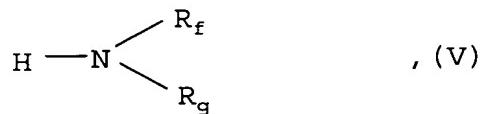
Z_1 denotes a nucleofugic leaving group, or

b) reacting under suitable conditions a compound of formula



wherein

with an amine of formula



wherein

R_f and R_g are defined as in claim 11, or with the reactive derivatives thereof and

c) optionally reducing under suitable conditions the product of a) or b) which contains a nitro group if desired into a corresponding amino compound and/or

d) if R_f denotes a hydrogen atom alkylating under suitable conditions the product into a corresponding compound wherein R_f denotes a phenyl-C₁₋₃-alkyl group, and/or

e) cleaving under suitable conditions any protecting group using to protect reactive groups during the reactions and/or

resolving the product any of the product above into its stereoisomers and/or

converting any of the products above into the physiologically acceptable salts thereof.